of Indian Granite has increased substantially from Rs. 3.74 crores in 1992-93 to Rs. 1,083 crores in 1995-96.

Revival of Golconda Diamond Mines

1595. SHRI GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to revive the Golconda diamond mines and search for diamonds, rubies and other precious gems in Khammam, Krishna, Anantpur and Cuduppa districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether there are any proposals to develop these areas from domestic and foreign companies C-8-DE Bears' Australian companies; and

(c) whether the diamonds are exported, if so, the figures for 1994-95 and 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) The application for grant of mining leases have to be made to respective State Governments only as per provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. The Central Government does not monitor receipt of such applications.

As per information available Government of Andhra Pradesh has appointed M/s Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (a State Public Sector Undertaking) as the agent of the Government of Andhra Pradesh to explore and exploit Diamond and Gold resources in Andhra Pradesh (Kurnool, Anantpur, Cuddapah, Mehboobnagar, Nalgonda, Guntur, Krishna, Khammam, Prakasham, Nellore and Chittoor for Diamond and Visakhapatnam, East-Godavari and Khammam for semi-precious stones). M/s Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. invited offers both in India and abroad for the exploitation of Gold and Diamond with appropriate technical and financial strength and research & development facilities and good market share. In response to the advertisement, 32 offers had been received for Gold and 27 for diamond.

(c) Yes, diamonds are being exported. The export figures for 1994-95 and 1995-96 is as given below:

Value in Rs.'000 Quantity in '000 carats

Year	Quantity	Mostly cut value
1994-95	15,359	12,35,71,213
1995-96	18,579	15,37,44,345

Allocation of Funds for Mining Development Programmes of Gujarat

1596. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allocation of funds for various mining development programmes in Gujarat for the remaining period of the Eighth Five Year Plan period has been finalised by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when Government propose to finalise the allocation to enable the State to decide its priorities?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDERA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Rs. 2.00 crores have been approved by the Planning Commission for the year 1996-97.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise.

Establishing Mineral based Industries in Kutch District

1597. SHRI GOPAL SINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite minerals and land resorces in the Kutch disrict of Gujarat the establishment of industries based on minerals could not be made there;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (c) As per information available, various mineral based industries are set up in the Kutch district of Gujarat. Status of some mineral-based industries set up in Kutch district of Gujarat is given below:—

(i) Based on bauxite deposits of Kutch, Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation (GMDC) has set up a bauxite calcination plant of 50,000 TPD capacity at Gadhsisa (Mandri Taluq). GMDC has also decided to set up an alumina plant of 2 million tpa capacity in Kutch district.

(ii) Based on the Lignite deposits around Lakhpat, GEB has set up two 70 MW thermal power unit. A third unit is likely to be added shortly.GMDC has also plans to set up a 250 MW thermal power station based on the lignite deposits of this area.

(iii) Based on the Limeston deposits of Lakhpat and Abdasa taluq, Sangi Industries Ltd., is setting up a cement plant with a capacity of 2.6 million tpa.

(iv) a number of Bentonite pulversing units are in operation at Gandhidam, Bhuj and Mandvi.

Setting up of Mining Industries in small scale sector in Tripura

1598. SHRI ANANTHRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government with regard to setting up of mining industries in small scale sector especially in the rural and backward area in the country, particularly in Tripura State;

(b) whether Government propose to set up mining industries in small scale sector in Tripura State with Central assistance;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the necessary measures taken by Government to provide financial assistance or Government's protection to the small scale mining industry sector in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Delegating Powers to States for Renewal of Mining Lease

1599. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have constituted a high level Committee to look into matters where more powers could be delegated to the States;

(b) if so, its terms and references and by when the Committee is expected to submit its report; and

(c) by when the Government's proposals are likely to be brought into force?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Govenrment have constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Mines), with Secretaries of Mines & Geology of different State Governments, Secretary General, Federation of Indian Mineral Industries, Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines etc. as Members. The terms of reference of the Committee inter-alia include review of the existing laws and procedures governing regulation and development of minerals and to recommend steps to make them